

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for block encryption of discrete data, comprising the steps of: generating an encryption key in the form of a set of subkeys, breaking down a data block into  $N \geq 2$  subblocks and ~~alternate~~ converting in turn said subblocks by performing a ~~dual-locus~~ two-place operation on ~~on~~ the subblock and the subkey, characterised ~~in that prior to carrying out said dual-locus operation on i-th subblock and subkey, a conversion operation is performed on the subkey depending on j-th subblock, where  $j \neq i$~~  by transforming the subkey with a data-dependent operation that depends on the j-th subblock prior to performing the two-place operation on the i-th subblock and subkey, where  $i \neq j$ .

Claim 2 (currently amended): The A-method according to claim 1, characterised in that an operation of permuting subkey bits depending on said j-th subblock is used as the j-th subblock dependent conversion operation data dependent permuting subkey bits is used as data-dependent operation that depends on the j-th subblock.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The A-method according to claim 1, characterised in that an operation of cyclic offsetting subkey bits depending on said j-th subblock is used as the j-th subblock dependent conversion operation data-dependent rotation of subkey bits is used as data-dependent operation that depends on the j-th subblock.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The A method according to claim 1, characterised in that a data-dependent substitution operation performed on a subkey depending on said j-th subblock is used as the j-th subblock dependent conversion operation is used as data-dependent operation that depends on the j-th subblock.